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A photograph showing three people seated on a stage for a press briefing. In the center is Mr. Moeti Mohwasa, Minister for State President, wearing a grey suit and glasses, gesturing with his hands. To his left is Ms. Keganele Malikongwa, National Planning Commission Acting Commissioner General, wearing a grey patterned blazer. To his right is Ms. Kootse Mokgwathi, Assistant Commissioner General, wearing a black blazer and holding a notepad. They are seated in orange armchairs with small round tables in front of them. The background is a white wall with a repeating pattern of the NPC National Planning Commission logo.

Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa (centre), National Planning Commission Acting Commissioner General, Ms Keganele Malikongwa (left) and Assistant Commissioner General, Ms Kootse Mokgwathi at a press briefing on the extension of the Second Transitional National Development Plan and key deliverables related to development of NDP 12 in Gaborone yesterday. Mr Mohwasa urged the Commission to ensure a wide stakeholder engagement throughout the NDP 12 preparation process as consultations start. Photo: Felicity Male

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Efforts underway to rehabilitate buffer fences

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - Efforts are underway to rehabilitate the buffer fences this financial year.

Principal veterinary officer, Dr Bruce Mafonko said this on Saturday when responding to comments from the chairperson of North West Integrated Farmers Association.

Dr Mafonko admitted that the fences were not in good condition and as such, they have requested funding for their maintenance.

He emphasised the importance of the buffer fences in Ngamiland region saying the fences were critical for disease control and protection of both livestock and wild animals.

Dr Mafonko also said they intend to turn zone 2e into a green zone to enable greater access of Ngamiland beef to high value markets.

Earlier on, the association chairperson Mr Simon Bogosi complained about the bad state of the fences which had resulted in free movement of both livestock and wild animals.

As a measure to control Foot and Mouth Disease(FMD), the livestock that cross the buffer fence into wildlife area is killed and burnt. Mr Bogosi therefore said this act impoverished farmers and called on the ministry to devise other alternatives.

He said it was a misconception for one to report that FMD vaccination alone without cordon fences could be a panacea for eradication of the disease.

Mr Bojosi recommended that buffer and cordon fences should be erected, adding that there should be implementation

of communal fencing where possible to reduce interaction of cattle and buffaloes.

He also complained that the protection zone at Hainaveld ranches which aimed to prevent the spread of FMD into commercial ranches was constructed without conducting environmental impact assessment (EIA) and thus had caused conflict as some farmers argued that the fence cuts off communal grazing land.

The Hainaveld farming block was originally zoned for commercial ranch development under the Tribal Grazing Land Policy of 1975 and Mr Bojosi decried non-compliance of the policy at Hainaveld arguing that part of the area had been converted to game farming without formally consulting with the community accordance with the EIA act.

However, he appreciated the government intention to declare Zone 2e into a green zone.

He cited areas such as Hainaveld ranches, Nxauau and Xaxa saying the areas had not been exposed to the disease for years.

Meanwhile, Dr Mafonko dismissed reports that cattle from North East Zone 6b where FMD outbreak occurred in 2023 were kept at Makalamabedi quarantine while awaiting slaughter at Maun Botswana Meat Commission plant.

He explained that the animals were transported straight to the slaughter facility, adding that an arrangement was made to ensure the exercise does not disadvantage Ngamiland farmers to use the quarantine and the abattoir as well. **BOPA**



Member of Parliament for Takatokwane, Mr Jacob Kelebeng (centre) with Ditshegwane residents on Friday. Mr Kelebeng announced plans to build houses for the needy through the Jacob Kelebeng Foundation. Photo:Mothusi Galekhutle

MP pledges housing for underprivileged

By Mothusi Galekhutle

DITSHEGWANE - Takatokwane MP, Mr Jacob Kelebeng has announced plans to build houses for the needy through the Jacob Kelebeng Foundation.

Speaking during a kgotla meeting at Ditshegwane and Kgare/Sebotswane on Friday, Mr Kelebeng said the foundation aimed to build at least five houses for disadvantaged individuals in his constituency within five years.

MP Kelebeng, who is also the Minister of Sport and Art, said the foundation sought to elevate sport in the region and had already funded tournaments in the constituency last December. He mentioned that the foundation also planned to

support individuals living with disabilities in his area as well as improving the plunging academic performance in his constituency.

Mr Kelebeng stated that the intention was to host career fairs for students to help them identify their career paths at an early age.

He also challenged councillors in his constituency to support communities by developing their own projects. Concerning the recent load shedding due to the breakdown of the ailing Morupule B Power Station, he stated that the government was considering building another power station.

Mr Kelebeng also said the government was stepping up its efforts to develop solar power stations.

In response to residents' concerns about congestion at

Letlhakeng clinic, Letlhakeng District Council Secretary, Mr Tsholofelo Molaodi stated that since primary health care services had been relocated to councils, outreach services would commence. He was confident that the congestion would abate.

He attributed the congestion at Letlhakeng clinic to a lack of health outreach services and stated that they have already identified a vehicle that would be used for outreach services. Mr Molaodi said the council maintenance crew would continue conducting minor repairs to address the dilapidated infrastructure in schools. Still in Kgare/Sebotswane, residents pleaded with the land board to expedite plot allocation and also requested a kgotla shelter and a mobile clinic. **BOPA**

‘Individual commitment plays role in combating GBV’

By Lorato Gaofise

GABORONE - The Minister of Youth and Gender Affairs, Ms Lesego Chombo has said the number one priority in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) is to prevent it from occurring. Delivering a keynote address during the Inaugural United Congregational Church of Southern Africa (UCCSA) Trinity anti-GBV workshop in Gaborone on Saturday, Ms Chombo said it was important to promote and create awareness about ways to prevent GBV rather than to react once the violence or death had occurred. “The priority is to prevent and this is why we say the individual commitment and participation in combating GBV plays a much more bigger

role, because this scourge is getting worse,” she said.

She commended UCCSA Trinity for organising the anti-GBV workshop, which was preceded by a walk and encouraged the church to cascade the message to the young ones in Sunday school.

By being intentional about the lessons they teach and the culture they inculcate in children in Sunday school, she said the church would contribute positively toward gender equality and GBV fight.

Minister Chombo said the church had so much power to influence, shape and build the society. “Because our spirituality is the very essence of our being and our spirituality guide us, can we use this power to teach our

children about equality and let us also teach our young boys about vulnerability and positives about masculinity,” she added.

Furthermore, Ms Chombo said it was also through a multi-sectoral approach and gender mainstreaming strategy that the fight against GBV and promotion of gender equality to address inequalities could be achieved.

She also expressed concern that some cultural and societal norms and practices had been deliberately twisted to negatively influence perceptions that perpetuated violence.

Giving a police perspective and envisaged solutions, Botswana Police Service (BPS) Commissioner Ms Dinah Marathe said GBV was fuelled by deep-seated cultural challenges,

economic hardships and abuse of substances, among others.

“Women and children are brutally murdered and raped by the people who are supposed to be their protectors,” she said.

She expressed concern that GBV had become a persistent and growing vile that continued to attack humanity. Ms Marathe reaffirmed BPS’s commitment in ensuring the safety and security of all citizens through prevention and detection of crime, for protection of lives and property. The BPS commissioner said they would continue to ensure provision of all the necessary assistance to afford GBV survivors the safety and confidentiality they deserved.

“We are also intentional in ensuring that GBV reports are

attended swiftly and that our services are accessible to all. So, let's come forward and seek for help, our doors are open,” said Ms Marathe. She said GBV reports could be made at police stations, in person, or via telephone, either disclosing identify or remaining anonymous.

Ms Marathe called upon all individuals and stakeholders to actively participate in the fight against GBV, commending the church for playing an active role in providing better support systems for the survivors.

The church, she said was a critical partner in crime prevention through fostering a culture of love, respectful relationships and mutual support, as it was advantaged to advocate for policy change. **BOPA**

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WUC launches debt recovery, amnesty drive

By Ndingililo Gaoswediwe

GABORONE – Water Utilities Corporation (WUC) has taken a bold step in tackling its staggering customer debt, which exceeds P1.55 billion, by launching a mass debt collection initiative coupled with a debt amnesty programme as of April 1.

In an interview, WUC coordinator for public relations

and events management, Ms Onalethata Mpopang explained that the campaign aimed to address the total reported debt of P1 551 329 842 as of February 28.

Of this figure, domestic customer debt stands at a startling P833 246 965, while government accounts total P501 773 172, Business debts follow at P153 579 505, with local councils rounding out the list with P62 730 200.

Furthermore, Ms Mpopang said that areas with the highest debts were Gaborone and Francistown followed by Mochudi, Kanye and Molepolole villages. Through this mass debt collection drive and the debt amnesty, WUC aims to significantly reduce outstanding debts, enhancing the corporation's liquidity in the process.

Moreover, Ms Mpopang said the initiative sought to foster positive customer relationships, acknowledging factors that have contributed to household debt, such as poverty alleviation through backyard gardening initiatives and the financial impact of COVID-19.

She also encouraged customers to clear their outstanding bills, which would also pave the way for a smooth transition to the Smart Prepaid Water Metering Solution.

The campaign, set to run from

April 1 through June 30, aims to reposition WUC as a progressive entity within the new Botswana while fostering improved service delivery and community partnerships.

“Customers with outstanding debts will receive an SMS notifying them of their eligibility for debt amnesty,” Mpopang clarified. In addition, communication regarding the initiative will be delivered through various channels, including social media, television, radio interviews, SMS notifications and on-the-ground activations.

She said any domestic customer with a water bill over 90 days old was eligible for the amnesty, encouraging customers to apply at their nearest WUC office or through the WUC website, where select offices would have extended operating hours to assist.

To ensure fairness and transparency, customers will be informed of their outstanding debts and the terms and conditions of the debt amnesty programme. Once an application is submitted and approved, customers will receive a copy of their debt amnesty application form, she explained.

Ms Mpopang said that the media was playing a crucial role in this initiative, with a target of reducing domestic debt by 50 per cent by the end of the campaign while also improving the corporation's liquidity.

Looking ahead, she said the introduction of the Prepaid Water Metering Solution was expected to prevent future debt accumulation, paving the way for a sustainable and accountable water service delivery system.

BOPA



Water Utilities Corporation coordinator for public relations and events management, Ms Onalethata Mpopang said they had taken a bold step in tackling customer debt, which exceeded P1.55 billion, by launching a mass debt collection initiative coupled with a debt amnesty programme as of April 1.

Health ministry commits to end maternal mortality

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - The Ministry of Health has reaffirmed commitment to tackling maternal mortality and ensuring healthy beginnings for every mother and child.

Speaking at the World Health Day commemoration in Gaborone yesterday, the Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse, highlighted the ministry's strategic interventions aimed at reducing preventable deaths through comprehensive healthcare measures.

Mr Ookeditse said one of the core pillars of the ministry's strategy was strengthening ante-natal and post-natal care.

He stressed the importance of ensuring that all pregnant

women received early and regular check-ups, including promoting safe hospital deliveries by skilled personnel to mitigate complications and reduce maternal mortality.

He said the ministry also planned to increase access to family planning services, particularly long-acting reversible contraceptives, to prevent unplanned pregnancies that could lead to complications for both mothers and babies. Mr Ookeditse emphasised the vital role of public health campaigns in addressing maternal mortality.

He said it was time campaigns focussed on raising awareness in communities about safe pregnancy practices, maternal, and new-born health be resuscitated as they ensure that every community was

equipped with the knowledge to protect maternal and child health.

Another key focus, Mr Ookeditse mentioned was capacity building within the health-care sector.

He called for intensified training for healthcare professionals, especially in emergency obstetric care and new-born resuscitation.

He further said the ministry was also committed to ensuring that maternity wards were properly equipped to handle complications during labour and delivery, ensuring that no woman was left vulnerable due to a lack of resources or expertise.

In addition to internal improvements, Mr Ookeditse underscored the importance of strengthening collaborations with strategic partners.

He said that included continuing vaccination programmes to protect both mothers and new born babies from preventable diseases.

Furthermore, he pointed out that the ministry aimed to enhance partnerships with stakeholders to improve health-care infrastructure and maternal health policies, ensuring that all pregnant women and their children had access to the care they needed.

Mr Ookeditse reiterated the ministry's determination to continue working with all sectors to reduce maternal mortality and build a healthier, safer future for all Botswana.

Mr Ookeditse said the theme for the World Health Day: Healthy Beginnings, Hopeful Futures emphasised the importance of maternal and new-born health, a fundamental pillar in building a healthier society. **BOPA**

National Development Plan 12 consultations start

By Bonang Masolotatse

GABORONE- The National Planning Commission (NPC) will start a nationwide National Development Plan 12 (NDP 12) stakeholder consultations today.

Minister for State President, Mr Moeti Mohwasa said this at a press conference on the extension of the Second Transitional National Development Plan and key deliverables related to development of NDP 12 in Gaborone yesterday.

He said consultations would start in Gaborone, where he would engage with leadership on the NDP 12 preparations.

“Consultations is not only a key imperative of this administration to ensure respect for people's rights but a necessary ingredient

in the national development planning process,” he said.

Mr Mohwasa said he had directed the NPC to ensure wide stakeholder engagement as much as possible throughout the NDP 12 preparation process.

He said government was committed to engage closely with Batswana, to ensure their aspirations were taken on board in crafting NDP 12. Also, he said the extension of the second Transitional National Development Plan (TNDP) provided for extensive consultation with key stakeholders and to also take into consideration the promises of the ruling party in the planning process.

Minister Mohwasa said the implementation of the NDP 12, which was expected to commence

on April 2025, was delayed, as the time that was available was too short to allow for meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

He said the government took a decision to extend the second TNDP by seven months, from April to October 2025, which also allowed for the constitution of the Advisory Council of the National Development Mission, which provided oversight on the work of the National Development Commission.

Mr Mohwasa said NDP 12 would take into consideration the ambitions of the ruling party, such as its ambitious objectives of stirring an economic growth of 10 per cent and creation of 500 000 jobs in five years among others.

“This will only be achieved if all stakeholders work together.

So NDP 12 will be a vehicle that will help to contribute ideas that will take us to our destination” he said. Mr Mohwasa said the whole planning process would be expected to end in November when Parliament approves the plan.

The NPC acting Commissioner General, Ms Keganele Malikongwa said the commission was in the process of developing NDP 12, which she said would be transformational.

She said the government had high targets, which called for changing and overhauling processes to meet the high demands, adding that the NPC was also benchmarking on high performing countries on how to transform.

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‘Alcohol Levy fund used for intervention programmes’

GABORONE - The Assistant Minister of Health, Mr Lawrence Ookeditse says the Botswana Unified Revenue Services (BURS), who were charged with the collection of the alcohol levy since 2019, has collected a total of P4 006 029 956.16 since its inception.

Answering a question in

Parliament on Thursday, he said it was worth noting that the ministry only received 10 per cent of the alcohol levy funds for the alcohol programmes and interventions, therefore, the expenditure report provided was only based on funds received by the ministry of health.

He said in 2018 to 2023, the ministry received P214 812 812.28 in alcohol levy funds and the total expenditure was P166 208 000.03.

The minister further stated that on tobacco levy, they received P196 731 157.94, adding that the financials for 2024 and 2025 have not been provided, as they have not been verified yet.

He said the number of individuals seeking and receiving treatment through the alcohol levy facilitation has grown steadily from 668 in 2017, to a cumulative figure of 3006 in 2023.

“It should be noted that substance use disorder was a chronic relapsing brain disease and clients continue to be in recovery and needing support, not only from the health sector but from families, communities and legislative support that aims at supply suppression and demand reduction on substance use,” he said.

Mr Ookeditse said for tobacco levy, the number of individuals

in the rehabilitation programmes across non-governmental organisations that have been funded through the levy fund stands as 276.

He said the ministry of health developed a strategic plan for alcohol and substance use in 2022, which was currently being implemented with the aim of providing harm reduction services for people affected by alcohol and other substances.

The assistant minister said most people with substance use disorders required outpatient services, which were offered at psychiatric clinics in the hospitals.

He said it was for this reason that they are constructing an in-patient rehabilitation centre at old Sekgoma Memorial Hospital Institute of Health Sciences in Serowe, which was expected to be operational in the third quarter of 2025.

The centre, which will have 50 beds comprising of 30 for adults, 20 males, 10 females and 20 for adolescents who will be 10 boys and 10 girls will offer inpatient and out-patient services, he said.

Similarly, he said, the ministry through tobacco levy implementation committees has set aside P 60 million to establish a rehabilitation center where the ministry of health has identified need. **BOPA**

MPs adopt social justice audit motion

GABORONE - Parliament has adopted a motion requesting government to conduct a comprehensive social justice audit.

The motion, which garnered support from legislators recently, was presented by Bobirwa MP, Mr Taolo Lucas.

He emphasised the need for all members of Parliament to commit to take action by the end of their term to bridge the gap between the affluent and the impoverished, as well as the developed and the neglected sectors of society.

“It is unfortunate for some individuals to believe that the disparities we see today are a divine decree that must persist.

These socioeconomic differences are man-made, and it is indeed men who must work

towards rectifying them,” said Mr Lucas

Mr Lucas indicated that many of the pressing challenges could be addressed through the National Development Plan 12.

He called for projects aimed specifically at resolving disparities in the distribution of essential infrastructure, including hospitals, secondary and tertiary schools as well as paved roads.

He also highlighted the potential for constitutional review to mitigate social differences among various tribes in the nation.

He added that the motion aimed to correct the injustices perpetuated by previous administrations.

Maun West MP, Mr Caterpillar Hikuama, pointed out that the societal differences were deeply

institutionalised in Botswana’s legislative framework. He noted that policies like assimilation have exacerbated inequality, particularly in education, where regions such as Kweneng, Kgalagadi, and Ngami have shown alarming levels of poverty and underdeveloped educational resources.

He further asserted that a social justice audit would generate a critical report with recommendations to guide government actions moving forward.

He underscored the importance of addressing issues such as child labour, where children often find themselves forced into roles as herd boys and farm labourers, situations worsened by the prevailing disparities in resource allocation.**BOPA**

Impact of local per diem under scrutiny - Mmolotsi

GABORONE - Ministry of Environment and Tourism through the Department of Tourism conducted a mini survey on the impact of the implementation of local per diem from July 31 to August 7, 2024. Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi was answering a question in Parliament on Thursday.

He said the department sampled 500 licensed establishments out of the 1402 licensed and only 215 responded to the study.

He said the ministry due to insufficient resources, could not undertake a comprehensive study to substantively determine decline and or increase in occupancy rates of the small to medium hotels, lodges and guesthouses.

Mr Mmolotsi said the results for the mini survey showed that majority of accommodation facilities recorded a decrease in revenue since the introduction and implementation of the local per diem.

This, he said, also revealed that civil servants negotiate for reduced room rates and also shared rooms. Mr Mmolotsi stated that the ministry has recorded a total of five facilities; four bed and breakfast being Shatiha Cottage, Place of Beauty, Thahika and Yalama as well as one guest house being Lekunutu, which closed down during the financial year 2024/25. He said lack of business was highlighted as a reason for closure, which might not necessarily be attributed to the implementation



Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi said the Department of Tourism had conducted a mini survey on the impact of the implementation of local per diem from July 31 to August 7, 2024.

of policy on local per diem. Furthermore, he said the ministry was informed by the industry players that some of the facilities laid off some of their employees.

Mr Mmolotsi said the impact of local per diem would be determined through the comprehensive study to be undertaken.

He indicated that plans were under way to have stakeholder

engagements so as to amend the guidelines for the local per diem with the aim to ensure that the implementation would not adversely impact small to medium hotels, guest houses and lodge operators.

Moreover the ministry through the Department of Tourism was also in the process to conduct a comprehensive study, which would target both the tourism

industry being accommodation providers, public sector trade unions and civil servants. The minister noted that the comprehensive study would be able to advise the ministry and the government on the true impacts of local per diem on the broader hospitality sector. He said one of the recommendations of the mini survey was that the government should consider

paying accommodation costs and civil servants be given meal allowances. The ministry would continue to engage with the relevant stakeholders and ensure facilitation and growth of the tourism sector.

Mogoditshane East MP, Mr Letlhogonolo Barongwang had asked the minister if any comprehensive study with detailed report had been conducted to provide feedback from the hotel and tourism business community following the introduction and implementation of the local travel per diem.

He asked the minister to provide the latest data from the ministry on decline and or increase in the occupancy rates at licensed small to medium hotels, lodges and guesthouses across the country.

MP Barongwang also requested the minister to provide the number of small to medium accommodation providers that had closed their facilities since the policy’s implementation.

He further implored the minister to outline measures put in place to ensure that the local travel per diem policy did not adversely affect the small to medium hotels, guest houses and lodge operators.

Mr Barongwang also asked how the government ensured that the government travel expenditure directly supported small to medium, dully registered, and tax compliant local businesses. **BOPA**

Lack of funds delays BR salary structure implementation

GABORONE - Botswana Railways organisational structure was last reviewed in 2019.

Answering a question in Parliament on Wednesday, the Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang said consultation with the union on the structure was concluded in June 2021 and implementation was effected in September 2021.

He shared that an independent consultant did the salary review structure during the financial year of 2022/2023 and the Board of Directors approved it in March 2023 for implementation, subject to availability of funds.

“To date, management has not been able to implement the approved salary structures despite the Board’s approval because the organisation’s financial situation has not improved to accommodate the budgetary requirements of the new structure,” he said.

Mr Atamelang said salary levels of Botswana Railways across positions are guided by the Botswana Railway Compensation and Benefits policy, therefore the salary levels and their implementation are guided by the financial performance of the organisation as well as the prevailing market rates per job position.

He said this was done through participation in annual market compensation and benefits comparisons by the private sector consultations as engaged by Botswana Railways. The assistant minister said in the past, Botswana Railways engaged Tsa Badiri Consultants, a private consulting human resource firm and furthermore, the organisation adopted a pay policy at the 50th percentile of prevailing market compensation rates for every survey job position.

Mr Atamelang said the disparity in terms of pay between lowest and highest job grades in the organisation was not substantiated as the current salary market survey findings show that the executive job positions were found above the market per findings by an independent consultant.

He further noted that the consultant who was engaged to do the salary structure made some of the observations that included that employees among the unskilled, semi-skilled to clerical were paid well within the organisation of 50th percentile.

Mr Atamelang said the other observation was that the basic salary of the General Manager has been pegged at the Permanent Secretary level as it is the same for other parastatals of the same level, however the survey indicated that the total compensation and benefits were well below compared to other counterparts.

He noted that the Board, subject to funds availability, had approved the new salary structure for implementation, therefore the new salary structure would be implemented once the organisation’s revenues exceeded its operating costs.

Selebi Phikwe West MP, Mr Reuben Kaizer had asked the minister to state when last was Botswana Railways organisational and salary structures reviewed and implemented. He also asked if the two structures were both reviewed and implemented across all positions, and if not, why was there a huge disparity between the highest paid and the least paid employee and also when will there be a review and increment of salaries for the staff. **BOPA**



Assistant Minister of Transport and Infrastructure, Mr Keoagile Atamelang said to date, Botswana Railways management had not been able to implement the approved salary structures despite the Board’s approval because of the organisation’s financial situation.

Govt engages investors to revive coal project

GABORONE - Government continues to explore opportunities to engage different investors in the mining and energy sectors, expressing hope that potential backers will come forward to develop key projects.

Answering a question in a Parliament on Friday on behalf of the Minister of Minerals and Energy, Minister of Environment and Tourism, Mr Wynter Mmolotsi, said that while there were no specific timelines, government was optimistic about attracting investors for the Mmamantse Coal Project.

Mr Mmolotsi provided background on the project, noting that Aviva Corporation once owned the Mmamantse Coal Exploration Project, which boasts an estimated 1.3 billion tonnes of coal resources.

The initial plan involved establishing a coal mine capable of producing 10 million tonnes per annum, which would support a 1 000 megawatt (2x500mw) export power station for Eskom.

However, challenges emerged in 2012, leading to the project’s failure, after which the mineral concession was acquired by African Energy.

The new owners also aimed to attract investment for its development. Unfortunately, the prospecting license under African Energy expired in 2021 and was not renewed due to the company’s inability to secure an investor. As it stands, no mineral concession currently exists for the area.

Kgatlang Central MP, Mr Mpho Morolong, had sought clarification

from the minister regarding the current status of the Mmamantse Coal Mine, questioning whether the project had been officially shelved and the reasons behind such a decision.

He also inquired about any government actions being considered to revive or repurpose the project, given its potential economic benefits for the region, including local employment and infrastructure development opportunities in Kgatleng Central.

Mr Morolong highlighted that the project was expected to boost the economies of surrounding villages such as Ramotlabaki and Olifantsdrift, particularly in relation to the anticipated expansion of the border post for coal supply to South Africa.

In a related matter, Selebi Phikwe East MP, Mr Kgoberego Nkawana, asked the minister to clarify whether the non-renewal of African Energy’s contract was indeed due to the company’s failure to attract investors.

He posited that licensing was crucial for attracting investment, suggesting that the government may have hindered potential investment opportunities by not renewing the prospecting license.

In response, Mr Mmolotsi clarified that African Energy had been granted a prospecting license but failed to secure an investor within the allotted time.

After the expiration of the license, the company requested a renewal, which was ultimately denied to allow other potential companies the chance to explore the project. **BOPA**

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Farmers implore BMC to revise rates

By Esther Mmolai

MAKALAMABEDI - Residents of Makalamabedi have called on the Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) to consider an increase in buying prices of their cattle.

They complained that the Maun abattoir was competing with private abattoirs, which purchased animals at a better price of P36 per kg compared to the BMC's P31 per kg.

The residents aired their views during a kgotla meeting addressed by the Vice President, Mr Ndaba Gaolathe over the weekend.

Residents said farmers had been playing a vital role in the success of BMC but the low prices had forced majority of the farming

community to resort to selling their animals to the private abattoirs and some local butcheries because they paid better and on time.

They said it was unfair as in other areas considered green zones, farmers were reaping the benefits of their animals as they enjoyed European Union lucrative markets. Farmers proposed a standard buying price, which would promote equity and incentivise the supply of cattle to the BMC.

Increasing the cattle-buying price, they said, would also boost cattle industry, citing that farmers would take advantage of the increase and sell their cattle in numbers.

The Village Development Committee chairperson, Mr

Lebogang Kelebang said BMC should up its game to restore the farmers waning confidence in the abattoir.

Farmers, he said depended on cattle as their source of income and blamed low prices to lack of lucrative market from the district as a result of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD).

"Our region has been declared a red zone and yet residents depended on rearing of livestock for survival but they were not reaping the benefits from their animals," he said.

Mr Kelebang said if the increase of purchase price was not successful, the abattoir should strive to secure more markets for Ngamiland beef.

He noted that farmers spent a lot in management of their livestock but was unfortunate, as they could not recover the costs they incur in cattle production due to low prices.

Mr Kelebang also decried delay in payment of farmers by BMC and called on the abattoir to provide efficient and timely payments to farmers.

He also called for improvement of infrastructure such as roads to the agricultural production areas, citing the Xedumo-Samedupi-Nxaraga road, which he said could help enable efficient transportation of imports and exports and access to markets.

The human-wildlife-conflict was also highlighted as a threat to pastoral and arable farming and Mr Kelebang called for the electrification of the protection fence as a measure to reduce elephant migration and stock theft.

Maun East MP, Mr Goretetse

Kekgonegile pointed out that the market challenges incurred by farmers had rendered the cattle farming less profitable.

He said pastoral farming was paramount to the economy of the region and proposed that the government should consider introducing the agricultural guarantee schemes so that farmers could gain more from pastoral farming. "Some farmers in other regions used their livestock as security to access financial assistance from institutions but here, farmers cannot do that because their animals were not accessing the rewarding market," he added.

He also emphasised that provision of adequate infrastructure was paramount for boosting agriculture production and food security, citing energy, good road networks and telecommunication among others. **BOPA**



Employees of Maun Botswana Meat Commission (BMC) abattoir at work. Makalamabedi farmers have called on BMC to consider an increase in buying prices, stating that the Maun abattoir was competing with private abattoirs, which purchased animals at a better price of P36 per kg compared to the BMC's P31 per kg.

Sefalana encourages hawkers to remain steadfast in pursuit of goals

MOLEPOLOLE - Small businesses and informal traders in Molepolole were treated to a dose of inspiration and motivation on Friday at the Sefalana Hawkers Trade Show.

Sefalana head office representative, Mr Paul Ramoloi, urged the entrepreneurs to believe in themselves and fuel their passion for their businesses.

"Successful entrepreneurship starts with self-belief and a clear vision," Mr Ramoloi proclaimed. He encouraged the traders to embrace the risk-taking nature of entrepreneurship, while emphasising the importance of perseverance in the face of challenges. He also stated that successful entrepreneurs were not afraid of uncertainty, urging the traders to remain steadfast in pursuit of their goals. "Entrepreneurs never give up, even when the road is rough

and, perhaps most importantly, they do not blindly follow the crowd," stressed Ramoloi.

While his words of encouragement were met with enthusiasm from the traders, many of whom expressed gratitude for the encouragement and guidance, most of them were quick to raise concerns about the financial struggles plaguing their businesses.

Among the issues raised was the use of credit to retain customers, which has resulted in heavy losses and shop closures for many.

Mr Solomon Ramalejane, a tuck shop owner in Medie, implored the Sefalana management to consider establishing a credit facility for small traders, pending an assessment of their eligibility. He also expressed his concern about Sefalana's pricing, stating that it was significantly higher than that of their competitors.

He appealed to the company to consider lowering their prices to help alleviate the financial burden faced by the traders. Responding to traders' concerns, Mr Ramoloi addressed the issue of pricing, explaining that the company's prices were set based on several factors, such as its listed status and wide network of outlets.

However, he was quick to recommend alternative options for the traders to alleviate the financial burden.

"I encourage you to consider Sefalana's Pula Value programme, Gift Card promotions, and Motshelo Account to purchase items at lower prices," he said. Sefalana is a locally-owned chain store with over 70 outlets across the country and a staff turnover of about 6 000 employees. It has established itself as a key player in the local retail market. **BOPA**

Chinese cars gain popularity in Egypt

CAIRO - Cruising through the bustling streets of Cairo in his sleek red Chinese-made sedan, Omar Mohamed exemplifies a growing trend in Egypt's automotive market the surging popularity of Chinese cars. "I didn't hesitate to buy a Chinese car a few months ago because of its good features for a reasonable price," he told Xinhua, noting that the cost of a brand-new Chinese car was often comparable to that of a used European model.

At first, the young man saw owning a Chinese car as a risk, given their reputation for frequent breakdowns.

"However, this perception has shifted over the past five years, as Chinese cars have improved significantly and unexpectedly," Mohamed said.

According to the Automotive Market Information Council (AMIC), Egyptian consumers have increasingly embraced Chinese cars, not just for their affordability but also due to their improved safety features and quality, making them a preferred choice in the local market.

This shift has reshaped the country's automotive landscape, contributing to a decline in both new and used car prices. "Chinese cars have played a major role in bringing down car prices, especially in the budget-friendly sedan and hatchback segments," said Ahmed Nasser, a sales manager at a leading Egyptian car dealership.

"The surge of the U.S dollar against the Egyptian pound, in addition to the shortage of imported vehicles and the high rates of inflation had pushed the prices too high. However, the

spread of Chinese cars in the Egyptian market has brought relief to Egyptian consumers who have endured years of inflated vehicle costs."

Nasser explained that dealers, faced with the affordability and feature-rich offerings of Chinese models, were compelled to reduce their profit margins and eliminate overpricing to remain competitive.

He predicted that Chinese cars would "sweep" the Egyptian market in the next few years, especially those manufactured or assembled locally.

"After-sales service and maintenance for Chinese cars are excellent, especially since most Chinese brands in Egypt have authorised dealers who have been operating in the Egyptian market for decades," he said.

According to the AMIC, Chinese car sales surged by 33.6 per cent between January and November 2024, with brands like Chery, MG and BYD securing prominent positions among the top 10 best-selling car brands in Egypt.

In January 2025 alone, Chinese cars topped passenger car sales, with 3,301 vehicles sold, a significant increase from the 1 721 units sold in January 2024, as reported by the AMIC. Osama Aboul-Magd, head of the Egyptian Automotive Dealers Association, attributed this market transformation to substantial investments and the localisation of automotive production.

He highlighted the significant financial commitments made by Chinese automakers, including US\$100 million for Geely's production and US\$ 135 million for MG's manufacturing. **Xinhua.**

2025

TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS NATIONAL

ROADSHOW



"Bridging Gaps, Building Futures: Revitalizing Education Through Collaboration"



Top tertiary Institutions coming to a place near you

ROADSHOW SCHEDULE

Team A – Southern & Kgalagadi
Team B – Central, North East & North West

📍 LOCATION	📅 DATE	📍 LOCATION	📅 DATE
MAUN EXPOSITION 2025			
Maun	7-9 April		
TEAM A		TEAM B	
Shakawe	11- 12 April	Kasane	11-12 April
Gantsi	14 April	Nata	14 April
Kang	16 April	Tutume	15 April
Tsabong	22 April	Masunga	16 April
Jwaneng	24 April	Francistown	22 -24 April
Kanye	25 & 26 April	Letlhakane	25 – 26 April
Lobatse	28 April	Serowe	28– 29 April
Molepolole	29 & 30 April	Bobonong	1 May
Mahalapye	2 & 3 May	Selibe Phikwe	2-3 May
Palapye	5 & 6 May		



STARTING TIME FOR ALL VENUES IS 0900HRS! APPLICANTS ARE URGED TO BRING CERTIFIED COPIES OF THEIR RESULTS SLIPS AND IDENTITY DOCUMENTS



Tertiary Institutions National Roadshow chairperson, Mr Chris Moiketsi giving an overview of the roadshow during its launch in Gaborone recently. He highlighted that the aim of the roadshow was to bridge the gap between aspiring students and higher education institutions, bringing essential educational resources directly to communities across the country. Photo: Phenyo Ramatu

BTI aims for provision of quality, accessible education

By Lesedi Thatayamodimo

GABORONE - Botswana Tertiary Institutions have reaffirmed their commitment to providing accessible and quality education by ensuring that every child, regardless of background, geographical location or financial constraints, has access to tertiary education opportunities.

Speaking at the launch of the 2025 Tertiary Institutions National Roadshow in Gaborone on Wednesday, the chairperson of the initiative, Mr Chris Moiketsi highlighted that the show aimed to bridge the gap between aspiring students and higher education institutions by bringing essential educational resources directly to communities across the country.

He said historically, many students in remote parts of Botswana faced significant challenges in accessing tertiary education due to financial constraints and the distance to institutions in major cities like Gaborone therefore, the roadshow was set to visit multiple towns and villages across the country, to address these barriers.

Since inception in 2015, the Tertiary Institutions National Roadshow has transformed the lives of thousands of students, giving them the opportunity to explore educational programmes, scholarships and career paths they might not have otherwise considered, Mr Moiketsi said.

The theme: Bridging Gaps, Building Futures; Revitalising Education through Collaboration, he said, reflected the importance of working together across public and

private educational sectors to create more accessible pathways to higher education.

Mr Moiketsi said a total of 22 various tertiary institutions and education partners would combine efforts to make tertiary education accessible to all Batswana, helping to create a brighter, more prosperous future for the entire nation.

He further said that the initiative aligned with Botswana’s broader vision of

enhancing education to meet the demands of the future workforce.

Mr Moiketsi stressed the need for a diversified skills base, particularly through Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), which would empower young people with the skills necessary for employment and entrepreneurship in today’s rapidly changing global economy, noting that education was the most powerful tool for shaping the future. **BOPA**

Mmadisang laid to rest Saturday

By Mmoniemang Motsamai

MOCHUDI - Rebecca Linchwe, affectionately known as MmaDisang, was laid to rest on Saturday, surrounded by family and friends who gathered to celebrate her life. MmaDisang, who passed away on April 1 at the age of 67, was the wife of Bakgatla deputy chief, Kgosi Bana Sekai.

Having battled health issues for an extended period, MmaDisang’s passing leaves a profound void in the hearts of her loved ones. Her son, Mr Disang Linchwe, reflected on her unwavering support and presence in their family, describing her as their ‘pillar of strength.’

He praised her impeccable taste and her belief in the power of consultation, emphasising her supportive role alongside Kgosi Sekai.

“MmaDisang was loving, patient, a disciplinarian and always encouraged us to become better versions of ourselves,” said Mr Linchwe.

He expressed his desire to

remember his mother not in her illness but through the joyful moments they shared together. “I would like to celebrate her life,” he said.

Mr Linchwe urged Bakgatla to support his father during this challenging time, highlighting the importance of community support now that MmaDisang is no longer with them.

Her grandson, Radikolo Linchwe, shared his feelings of loss, stating that losing his grandmother was unbearable. “We will miss her warmth, love, wisdom, and even her scolding,” he recalled, painting a picture of the deep bond they shared.

A close friend, Ms Josephine Chiura, who met MmaDisang in the early 1990s while they both worked for Standard Chartered and later Zimbank, fondly remembered her as a humorous and amazing woman.

“My friend was beautiful inside and out. She never lost touch with those she crossed paths with and was always willing to help,” Ms Chiura reminisced.

MmaDisang’s uncle, Mr

Bonjour Botswana awards 42 French certificates

By Kelebogile Taolo

FRANCISTOWN - The Director of Alliance Francaise Ms Angelique Saverino has emphasised the collaboration between Bonjour Botswana and local schools to facilitate French examinations.

She said this when Bonjour Botswana held its third French Certificate Award Ceremony in Francistown on Saturday.

The awards were to celebrate the achievements of 42 students from various schools who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and dedication in their pursuit of the French language.

She noted that the certificates awarded to the successful learners were valid for a lifetime and recognised internationally, providing significant advantages for students wishing to further their studies abroad.

Ms Saverino praised Bonjour Botswana for their contributions in making French language learning engaging and accessible through educational materials.

She also expressed her appreciation for the cooperation of learners, teachers, and parents, which has been vital in achieving the positive outcomes.

Acting Mayor of Francistown, Mr Thapelo Mosenya, highlighted that learning French extended beyond language acquisition, it fostered intercultural understanding

and served as a bridge that connected diverse cultures.

He acknowledged the perseverance and dedication of the learners, which led to their successful attainment of recognised French language certificates.

Mr Mosenya encouraged the students to continue their French studies, emphasising its importance for their future endeavours.

He commended Bonjour Botswana for their initiatives in schools, including organising Spelling Bee competitions and sponsoring students for international French exams.

Furthermore, Mr Mosenya expressed gratitude for Bonjour Botswana’s commitment to preparing a French syllabus, which they would give it free of charge to any school teaching the French language, ensuring adherence to international standards.

Mr Namujanda Jackson, Director of Bonjour Botswana, said that a total of 42 students from Francistown and surrounding areas received certificates issued by the French Ministry of Education, which are recognised globally.

He stated that the award ceremony not only acknowledged the students’ hard work but also celebrated their achievements and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in their language studies. **BOPA**

Nchimpi Nkwe, spoke of her disciplined upbringing, describing her as a soft-spoken yet strict individual who

impacted those around her. She is survived by her husband, two children, and four grandchildren. **BOPA**



Rebecca Linchwe, affectionately known as MmaDisang, was laid to rest on Saturday.

Ambrose Academy raises awareness on autism

By Ketshepile More

GABORONE - Ambrose Academy in Gaborone North commemorated World Autism Day on April 2 by embarking on a walk to raise awareness on the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) condition.

The academy engaged the 2024 World Rally Raid champion, Ross Branch as the chief walker.

Making a call for inclusively

on autism, a parent, Ms Bokang Opelokgale in an interview with *BOPA* called for inclusiveness to foster acceptance, saying it could only come with awareness.

“And awareness can only be possible if each and everyone of us, can speak on behalf of the voiceless, the children living with autism,” she said.

Ms Opelokgale is raising a 10-year-old who is autistic and as such, she said it was their duty to

teach people around them about this developmental condition.

The ASD is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain, and can cause significant social, communication and behavioural challenges.

She said dealing with autistic children had challenges noting that both caregivers and autistic children needed the support they could get from people around them.

Furthermore, she said when people are aware of ASD and the challenges autistic children went through, they would be in a better place to be of assistance in whatever way they could.

She said learning about ASD meant one could encourage and celebrate the uniqueness, abilities and interests of autistic individuals, recognising that autism was a spectrum.

Also, Ms Opelokgale said they encountered challenges, particularly of resources for autistic children.

“Our children need resources and support to reach potential that other normal developing children reach. It is unfortunate that the majority of children in Botswana do not have access to adequate resources,” she said, adding that being aware of ASD would mean acceptance. She said when accepted, societal inclusivity would be easy and government could also resourcefully absorb them in their human resource noting that an autistic child grows into an autistic adult, as

autism does not end at 18 or 21.

Ms Opelokgale said there was also need for advocacy for autism in the workplace. Moreover, she said in her journey of raising a child with special needs, she realised that viable income to cater for all their needs was necessary.

“They need special equipment at school as their fine motor skills are not yet developed, they go for speech therapies, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and the school fees at a special institution,” she said.

The 2025 World Autism Awareness Day was observed under the theme: Advancing Neurodiversity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The theme highlighted the intersection between Neurodiversity and global sustainability efforts, showcasing how inclusive policies and practices could drive positive change for autistic individuals worldwide and contribute to the achievement of the SDGs. *BOPA*



Gaborone North councillor, Mr Austin Abraham (left), the 2024 World Rally Raid champion, Ross Branch (centre) and Gaborone City Council deputy mayor, Ms Manki Sekete (right) during a walk to commemorate World Autism Day in Gaborone recently. The walk was organised by Ambrose Academy, a school dedicated to helping children with autism. Photo: Dimpho Buisanyang

Mosiwa primary gears up for centenary celebrations

By Thuso Kgakatsi

NGWATLE- Mosiwa Primary School will on April 11, celebrate 100 years of existence.

Established in 1925 by the London Missionary Society (LMS) under the stewardship of Pastor Henry Keaiketse, the school will celebrate the centenary as a milestone in education toward community development in Kgalagadi and beyond.

Organising committee chairperson, and former alumnus, Mr Oathotse Hiri described the school as a beacon of hope that had transformed many lives.

He said the centenary was a chance to honour the past and an opportunity to forge ahead.

“This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the school’s rich history, the generations of pupils who have passed through its doors, teachers and staff who have shaped the young lives with care and passion,” said Mr Hiri.

The first school in Kgalagadi, Mr Hiri said Mosiwa primary was founded by LMS to provide faith based education for children and elders as most followers were not literate and unable to read the Bible.

He said the school later partnered with government to become a formal institution of learning.

Mr Hiri said the school had been part of many families’ live for generations as parents had enrolled their children in the same school which they once attended with the view to pass on their core values.

Some of the school’s alumni

he said were judges, doctors, politicians, businessmen and teachers.

They include, former Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi, Mr Lesedi Mothibamele, veterinarian, Dr Gaseitswe Sento, former Member of Parliament for Kgalagadi North and Assistant Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ms Talita Monnakgotla and former assistant commissioner of police, Mr Kegolotswe Moriti.

He said they partnered with the alumni to play a central role in the celebration and share their stories.

“There is a history book which will be available during the celebration and will highlight the school’s history showcasing its evolution from 1925 to to-date,” said Mr Hiri.

Committee deputy chairperson, Mr Mothibamele said it was important to celebrate the school because it had produced individuals who had contributed toward the country’s development.

Mr Mothibamele said the school had for a long time, served as a beacon of hope, portraying it as the shining light in the desert for many.

“We have seen it change the lives of many and therefore, we want it to be known by everyone,” he said.

For her part, Mosiwa Primary School head, Ms Olivia Ditshetelo said the celebration was more about looking back, strengthening ties and ensuring the school legacy continued to thrive for generations to come.

Our school is among the top performing schools in the region, Ms Ditshetelo said. *BOPA*

NWDC welcomes budget estimates

By Esther Mmolai

MAUN - North West District councillors have approved the 2025/26 budget estimates with mixed feelings as some argued that it was inadequate to undertake all the planned developmental projects in the district.

The district, they said was faced with many challenges and the estimated budget would not enable the council to execute its mandate efficiently and effectively for the betterment of the communities.

Legislators shared their views during a recent special full council after presentation on the final budget estimate by the finance committee chairperson, Mr Diare Baoketsi, who informed them that the 2025/26 final recurrent budget ceiling for the council amounted to P250 238 400, which comprised of P239 320 400 Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and P10 918 000 of income from own source.

The house also learnt that the RSG showed a decrease of P40 907 070, which translates to 14 per cent from the P227 470 of 2024/25 fiscal year.

Included in the RSG, Mr Baoketsi said was the P10 696 326 for operational costs of clinics as they would be relocating to councils during this financial year. Personnel emoluments and other contractual operations for clinics, he said were not included

in the above allocation.

The house also learnt that the overall budget for the council had decreased by P41 638 010 from P291 721 250 to P238 400 and that the income from own source had also been reduced from P11 648 940 in 2024/25 approved budget to P10 918 000 due to reduction in cash flow leading to lower investments.

Mr Baoketsi further told councillors that the largest share of the budget, which amounted to P119 976 210, went to personnel emoluments, which provided for employees’ salaries, members allowances, pension, overtime and scarce skill allowance.

“The vote has decreased by P22 134 213 as the overtime has decreased due to budgetary constraints. Also terminal benefits for councillors’ end of term has reduced as the council only budgets for one or two councillors in case they exit before end of term due to unforeseen circumstances,” he added.

Special expenses vote, which provides for relief of destitute persons, food and accommodation, school stationery and others, he said had the second largest share of the budget at P76 499 030, which represents 30 per cent of the budget.

The remaining balance of the budget, which amounts to P23 004 100 and represents nine per cent goes to establishment

expenses, he said.

While fellow councillors appreciate that the mandate of the council was to bring services closer to the people, they expressed concern that with such a small budget, they were going to fail the community.

Cllr for Samedupi/Chanoga, Mr Nico Folaie expressed frustration, saying the said budget would limit the council to deliver projects as expected.

Nominated councillor, Mr Kebareeditse Ntsogotlho said such was a wake-up call for the council to intensify collection of revenue to augment its budget, noting that fellow councillors should appreciate that the government was facing an economic crisis, hence reduction in budget allocations.

He also urged leaders to explain the current situation to communities in their respective areas for them to appreciate and also inform them that other projects would be implemented through other programmes such as Ipelegeng and Community Constituency Fund (CCP).

Council secretary, Mr Thatayotlhe Balapi informed the house that they had been advised to maximise on the little resources they had, noting that they had to reduce on the expenditure. He also assured the house that if the financial situation improved, they would make some proposals to cater for some projects in the plan. *BOPA*

Bagodi ba ikaelela go itlhabolola ka P1 400

Ka Cathrine Simane

TSABONG: - Mo gare ga meduuetso le dikakgolo tse bagodi ba di lebisang puso ba sena go okelediwa madi go tswa mo go P830 go ya kwa go P1 400, kwa Tsabong ba ikana fa ba sena go a ja mosusumpelo

Ka nako ya ipapatso ngogola, UDC, e e busang gompieno, e ne ya solofetsa bagodi gore fa e ka tsaya puso e tlaa oketsa madi

a bagodi go ya kwa go P1 800, mme ya re morago ga go lemoga fa puso e tlhaelwa ke madi, Tautona Advocate Duma Boko a busetsa seelo sa tsholofetso fa go P1 400, mme go ne ga nna fela jalo Moranang a rogwa.

Mo mosong wa Labobedi beke e e fetileng, bagodi ba ne ba rurifatsa seo ka go letsa mogolokwane le dikoma ba supa boitumelo jo bogolo morago ga go amogela P1 400 mo posong ya

Tsabong. Mongwe wa bagodi bao, Mme Popi Khole wa dingwaga tse di masome marataro le boferabongwe o ne a seka a fitlha boitumelo jwa gagwe mme a thunya ka leboko a tla a letsa mogolokwane a galaletsa Tautona gore o diragaditse maitlamo a gagwe, a tlatsa ka go re e bile ba tlaa tswela ba mo tshepa go ya go pele.

Mme Khole o ne a supa fa puso ka fa tlase ga khansele ya

Tsabong e tswelletse ka go mo tlhokomela ka dijo tsa batlhoki le seshabo kgwedi le kgwedi mme jaanong madi a bogodi a ikaelela go ikagela ntlo ya kamore tse pedi gore le e ne a tle a tshwane le batho ba bangwe ka jaana bonno bo ofa motho seriti. Mo nakong ya gompieno o nna mo ntlung ya Setswana.

Mme Rachel Bezuidenhont yo o neng a digela dingwaga tsa gagwe tsa go amogela madi a bogodi ka Hirikgong mono ngwaga, o ne a nyenye, a supa fa a le lesego gore a bo a simolola go amogela madi a bagodi ka nako e a okeditsweng ka yone.

Mme Bezuidenhont o ne a supa fa a ikaelela go tlhabolola botshelelo jwa gagwe ka madi ao jaaka go teratelela tshingwana ya merogo ka jaana e le botlhokwa mo botsogong.

Rre Rebaone Tlhomamisang, 69, Rre Kebopakgotla Motheledi, 68, Rre Gaekgwathe Sentlabane, 72, botlhe e le banni ba Tsabong le bone ba ne ba akgola Tautona Boko, ba supa fa a dirile tiro e ntle e e tlaa tsisang pharologanyo le go tlhabolola matshelo a bone jaaka go tlhabolola masimo, meraka le bonno e seng go a ja mosusumpelo. **BOPA**



Bagodi ba tlhalositse fa ba ikaelela go dirisa madi a bone a puso e sa tswang go a oketsa go tswa mo go P830 go ya kwa go P1 400 go itlhabolola.

‘Kgotla ya Setswana ga e ngalwe’

Ka Naomi Leepile

BOKSPITS - Molaodi wa Kgalagadi Borwa, Rre Levis Thupa o gakolotse banni ba Bokspits go dirisa ditsela tse di maleba fa ba na le dingongora.

O buile jaana ka Labotlhano mo phuthegong ya kgotla e neng e tshwaretswe kwa Bokspits.

Rre Thupa o supile fa maikaelelo a phuthego e ne e le go tla go busetsa mowa wa kagiso le thokgamo mo motseng morago ga go lemoga fa seemo se sa iketla. A re go supagetse fa morafe o sa itumelele ka fa Kgosi Charles Hendricks e busang ka teng e bile ba kopile gore a ithole marapo, a supa fa morafe o bile o ngadile kgotla.

Molaodi o ne a ba gakolola gore ba itse fa go na le tsamaiso le gore fa ba na le ngongora ba dirise ditsela tse di tshwanetseng.

“Kgotla ga e ngalwe ka gore ke yone lefelo la lona la bokopano, ke gone kwa puso e rerisang morafe teng, ka jalo fa lo sa tle kgotleng motse ga o kake wa nna le ditlhabololo le tsamaiso” Molaodi a tlhalosa.

Molaodi o tswelletse ka go ba tsibosa fa kgotla e le botlhokwa mo matshelong a bone ka e ba golaganya le badimo e bile e le gone kwa ba fiwang mananeo a puso teng, ka jalo go tlhoka go tla kgotleng go tlaa ba fetisa mananeo.

Rre Thupa o ne supa fa a amogetse mokwalo wa go dira dipopelelo mo motseng, mme o ne a lekodisa morafe gore mokwalo wa bone o santse o le kwa bagolwaneng ba gagwe.

O ne a ba kopa go wela dibete le go itshwara sentle fa ba santse ba letetse phetolo.

Fa a rola pego mo boemong jwa komiti ya motse ya ditlhabololo, Rre Dako Mathais o ne a supa fa morafe o sa itumelele ka fa kgosi a berekang le bone ka teng, a supa fa a seke a ba biletsa diphuthego kana go ba rerisa sepe fela ka motse wa bone.

O supile fa Kgosi Hendricks a tsaya letlhakore mo dikgannyeng tsa motse. O tlhalositse fa morafe o sa itumelele ka fa kang ya ga John George yo o nyeletseng e tsewang ka teng ke ba bogosi ga mmogo le ba molao.

Fa a akgwa morafe dikgaba, Kgosi Hendricks o ne a amogela matshwenyego otlhe a morafe, a supa fa phoso e dirwa ke motho e bile e baakanngwa ke motho.

Kgosi Hendricks o ne a ikopa maitshwarelo mo go tsotlhe tse a di dirileng a bo a solofetsa morafe gore o tlaa ipaakanya.

O ne a kopa morafe go boela mo kgotleng le go tsenelela diphuthego fa ba bidiwa gore ba seka ba fetwa ke mananeo le go tswaledisa ditlhabololo tsa motse.

Modulasetilo wa khansele ya Tsabong, Rre Elias Motlhanke o ne a kopa morafe le kgosi gore e nne modiga. O ne a ba rotloetsa go dirisa kgotla ya bone ka nako tsotlhe gore ba kgone go akola meamuso ya puso.

Rre Motlhanke o ne a akgola Kgosi Hendricks go bo a ipone phoso e bile a ikobile mo morafeng wa gagwe, a re go dira jalo go botlhokwa ka go tlaa busetsa kagiso mo motseng. **BOPA**

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Rescue team retrieve body of teenager

By Portia Ikgopoleng

KASANE - The body of a 16 year-old boy who fell into Chobe River in Kasane on Sunday was retrieved yesterday morning.

The body was retrieved in the vicinity of the private jetty

Argument results in loss of life

By Tshiamiso Mosetlha

SEROWE - Serowe Police are concerned by escalating number of murder cases in their policing area.

In an interview with BOPA, Assistant Superintendent, Eric Dambe of Serowe police said they have arrested a 23-year-old man of Majwanaadipitse settlement after he stabbed another man who's age was not identified with a sharp instrument at the village bar on April 5.

The culprit who is still in police custody will appear before the Serowe Magistrate's Court on a single count of murder today.

The accused is alleged to have stabbed the victim with a sharp object suspected to be a knife on chest after a heated argument over alcohol.

He left him lying motionless in a pool of blood and escaped the scene. **BOPA**

where he fell.

In an interview, Botswana Police Service Officer Commanding District No.7 Senior Superintendent Meshack Pulenyane said the body was taken to Kasane Primary Hospital where the boy was certified dead.

Senior Supt Pulenyane said the boy, together with his two friends, were taking pictures at a private jetty by the river where people board and disembark boats.

He indicated that the boy was a Form Three student at Chobe Junior Secondary School in Kasane.

Senior Supt Pulenyane highlighted that upon the retrieval, the deceased's family confirmed his identity.

He said investigations continued in order to establish what could have transpired during the events leading to the fall.

The officer warned that Chobe River was a hazard because of its depth and harboured dangerous animals like crocodiles and hippos.

He implored parents to keep a close eye on their children to ensure they don't go near the river.

The police boss said it was disheartening to lose young people year in and year out at Chobe River.

"This river is very dangerous, which requires law enforcement, government departments, schools and parents to join hands and raise awareness, especially on our children to stay away from the river," he noted. **BOPA**



Rescue team carrying the body of the 16-year-old teenager who was retrieved from Chobe River yesterday. Botswana Police Service Officer Commanding District No.7 Senior Superintendent Meshack Pulenyane said the body was retrieved in the vicinity of the private jetty where he fell. Photo:Portia Ikgopoleng

Suspect shoots himself to death

By Goitsemodimo Williams-Madzonga

SEBINA - A suspect in a threat to kill incident has shot himself to death last week Friday.

In an interview with BOPA, Tutume Police station commander Superintendent Lesego Kgosiemang explained that the suspect, a 43-year-old man of Magapatona ward in Tutume was wanted by the police for threatening to kill his ex-girlfriend at her work

place in Sebina.

Supt Kgosiemang highlighted that prior to the suspect taking his life, the ex-girlfriend aged 36 of Sebina, reported that the deceased had assaulted and threatened to shoot her on March 31.


He said at the time, she did not report until her colleagues told her that he had come to her work place on foot and looked suspicious, while he had parked his vehicle in nearby bushes.

Supt Kgosiemang said the police swiftly responded to the report and indeed found his vehicle parked in the bushes but could not find him until he called them to come and get him at Sebina crossroads.

While on their way, they got another call from a passerby who informed them that someone had shot himself.

Supt Kgosiemang said on arrival at the scene, they realised it was the person they had been looking for. He said investigations into the incident are ongoing. **BOPA**

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NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF A TENDER

NAME OF THE PROCURING ENTITY	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
------------------------------	-------------------


Bidders are hereby informed that the below mentioned tender was rejected and cancelled for a re-tendering. This decision came as a result of finding out that there is a significant change in requirement of the tender.

Tender Reference Number	SP/NA/002/2023-2024
Title of Procurement	A Framework tender for the procurement of the provision of courier services to and from constituencies for twenty-four months.
Method of Procurement	Open domestic bidding method
Opening Date	12 th February 2024
Closing Date	23 rd February 2024

The decision is in line with the Public Procurement regulations of 2023; clause 66.




























(4)" A procurement unit shall avoid a cancellation of a tender as far as may be practicable, and shall consider to cancel a tender where –

(c) there is significant or material change to either the scope or a requirement of the tender, including the bidding conditions, the conditions of a contract or any other detail."


Office of Government buyer
Ministry for State President

Official Stamp

DIRECTOR
PROCUREMENT OVERSIGHT
MINISTRY FOR STATE PRESIDENT
03 APR 2025
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GABORONE, BOTSWANA




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NOTICE OF CANCELLATION OF A TENDER

NAME OF THE PROCURING ENTITY	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
------------------------------	-------------------


Bidders are hereby informed that the below mentioned tender was rejected and cancelled for a re-tendering. This decision came as a result of finding out that there is a significant change in requirement of the tender.

Tender Reference Number	SP/NA/017/2024-2025
Title of Procurement	Supply and Delivery of Newspapers to the National Assembly for a period of 12 months.
Method of Procurement	Request for quotation method
Opening Date	2 nd October 2024
Closing Date	9 th October 2024

The decision is in line with the Public Procurement regulations of 2023; clause 66.















(4)" A procurement unit shall avoid a cancellation of a tender as far as may be practicable, and shall consider to cancel a tender where –

(c) there is significant or material change to either the scope or a requirement of the tender, including the bidding conditions, the conditions of a contract or any other detail."


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Ministry for State President

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ClassifiedAds

FARM WORKERS

FARMWORKER KOPONG
74058693/72264427

BELVOIR FARM IS looking for a farm worker at Mokgalwana lands,Ratholo.2 years experience in horticulture or non in house training will be done.Closing date 28 April 2025.Contact M.Moepi 71860703

NEEDED; FARM WORKERS with not less than 10 years experience in market gardening inclusive of farming vegetables - both local and chinese, potatoes, goats, chickens and pig farming. Apply to P O Box 601927 Gaborone not later April 28, 2025.

TWO FARM WORKERS wanted at Phatlhana Mochudi for Gaobotse Ngwisanyi 72 115 956

FARM WORKERS WANTED at Kgamagadi lands. Morewagae 75761919.

FARM WORKERS WANTED at Kumakwane lands. Rantutu 72443364

FARM WORKERS WANTED at Maologane lands. Contact Tomeletso 72 793 513

FARM WORKER URGENTLY needed to start work immediately. Female required. Contact Parsy Mphinyane 75 538 116.

FARM WORKER URGENTLY needed to start work immediately. Female required. Contact Parsy Mphinyane 75 538 116.

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

OWNER OF PLOT 9515 in Extension 7 Palapye would like to change land use of plot from residential to multiresidential.All neighbours concerns and queries are to be addressed to Palapye District Council physical planning office,Tel 4921092/4921541 within 14 days of this publication.

THE OWNER OF plot 14819, Nkoyaphiri Mogoditshane informs neighbors of intention to change land use from single-family residential to multi-residential. For comments contact physical planning office, Mogoditshane-Thamaga District Council. Tel 3166653 within fourteen days.

OWNER OF PLOT no 10261 Maruapula notifies plots 10260, 10259, 10270 owners of their intention to erect townhouses. For objection contact physical planning Gaborone council within 14 days

OWNER OF TRIBAL lot 2905 in Mmatseta, would like to erect a boundary wall. Any queries or objections should be submitted to Kweneng District Council, Planning Office within 14 days of this notice at 5920200.

THE OWNER OF Plot 24022, Gakebuang Kanye wishes to inform neighbours of their intention to change land use from commercial to Outdoor Recreational/ Events Centre. For comments contact, Physical Planning office, Southern District Council at Tel: 5440217 within 14 days of this publication.

OWNER OF PLOT NO. 37523, Block 4 (Tsolamosese) Mogoditshane wishes to change land use from residential to multi-family residential. For any objections contact Mogoditshane/ Thamaga Sub- district council physical planning office, Tel: 3105615.

OWNER OF PLOT NO. 37523, Block 4 (Tsolamosese) Mogoditshane wishes to change land use from residential to multi-family residential. For any objections contact Mogoditshane/ Thamaga Sub- district council physical planning office, Tel: 3105615.

VACANCIES

ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN NEEDED Apply to Aklet Auto Parts P.O Box 21015 Gaborone 72 115 956

NOTICE FOR A CERTIFIED COPY OF LOST DEED

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of deed No. FT 688/13 Dated the 26/08/2013. Made in favor of Sefathlago Ruth Mpuang In respect of:

CERTAIN: Piece of land being Lot 25293.
MEASURING:364 Meter squared.
SITUATE: Francistown.
HELD UNDER: FT 688/2013

All persons having objection to the issue, of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same in writing with the Register of Deeds, Francistown within three weeks from the last publication of the notice.

Dated: 28/03/2025.

Address.
Plot 25293
Gerald Estates Francistown

Application for Lost Deed

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that we intend applying for a certified copy of Memorandum of Agreement of Lease No. 112/19 dated 1st February, 2019 in respect of the following property;

CERTAIN: piece of land being Lease Area Lot 2033 Gaborone
SITUATE: at Gaborone Extension 8/Bontleng in the Gaborone District Council.
MEASURING: 599.69m² (Five Hundred Ninety-Nine and Sixty-Nine Square Metres)
HELD UNDER: Deed of Transfer No. 112/19 dated 1st February, 2019, made in favour of **ESTATE LATE GALEBOLOKE MMOPIEMANG.**

All persons having objection to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge the same, in writing, with the Registrar of Deeds for Botswana within three (3) weeks from the publication of this notice.

DATED at Gaborone on this 02nd day of APRIL, 2025.
LOKWALO ATTORNEYS ,P O Box 787 ABG, Sebele, GABORONE
Plot 28562, Unit F14, Fairgrounds Mall, GABORONE.

Application for a Certify Copy of Lost Title Deed

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned intends to apply for a certified copy of Title Deed No. TL 1116/2018 dated 15th November, 2018 made in favour of Boineelo Modimoofile in respect of:

CERTAIN: piece of land being Lot. No.6784, Bokaa
SITUATE: Bakgatla Tribal Territory
MEASURING: 683m2 (Six Hundred and Eighty Three Square Metres)
HELD UNDER: Title Deed No. TL 1116/2018

IN FAVOUR OF: Boineelo Modimoofile
DATED at Gaborone on this 3rd of April 2025.
All persons having objections to the issue of such copy are hereby required to lodge same, in writing, with the Registrar of Deeds, within three (3) weeks from the date of publication of this notice.

OTHUSITSE MBEHA LAWYERS, Plot 50362, Ground Floor, Unit 3, Fairgrounds, The Office Park, P O Box 70498, GABORONE Telephone No. 3950033

NOTICE OF NEXT OF KIN MEETINGS Administrative of Estates Act [Cap 31:01]

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that by virtue of section 31 of the Administration of Estates Act (Cap: 33:01), heirs and next of kin of the deceased and all persons having claims against the above estate, are being called upon to attend before the Master of The High Court at Francistown High Court on the date and time specified opposite the names of their deceased relatives for the purposes of recommending for appointment, a person or persons as Executor/Executrix Dative as well as identifying beneficiaries and to discuss any other business relating to their deceased relative.

Name of Deceased Person	Estate Number	Date of Meeting	Time	Master
SEETSANENG THEBELE	ESHFT-000203-24	04-06-2025	09000HRS	BASUPI

DATED AT FRANCISTOWN THIS 20TH DAY OF MARCH 2025

MASTER OF THE HIGH COURT

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS

Master's Reference: ESHGB 000843/23

IN THE STATE of the late **KEA BATSILE LEMPADI AND BAKAE LEMPADI** who died at Bokamoso Private Hospital, Mmopane, Kweneng District Botswana on the 25th day of March 2023 and Princess Marina Hospital, Gaborone, on the 05th day of November 2013 respectively.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN given that Debtors and Creditors in the above Estate are hereby required to pay their claims of whatever nature with the undersigned within **(30) days** after the publication hereof.

DATED at _____ on this _____ Day of _____ 2025

.....
The Executor
Kgafela Kabo Lempadi
P O BOX 180 SHAKAWE
CELL: 75552931/73811444



Job Advertisement.

Institution: Botswana National Beef Producers Union.
Positions: One (1) x Administration and Marketing Assistant
Qualifications: Diploma/Degree in job related Education.
Duration: one (1) year contract.
Duties: Office Administration and Marketing
Place of work: Gaborone

Closing date: 21st April 2025

For more details contact:

Alfred R. Pilane

Cell No. 71663958

Email: mmmamos2@gmail.com

NEIGHBOUR CONSULTATION

I FAREWELL NDULAMO MASALA OWNER OF PLOT 8661 AND 8662 IN FRANCISTOWN INFORM OWNERS OF PLOTS 8660, 8663, 8675 AND 8659 THAT I INTEND TO CONSOLIDATE, CHANGE LANDUSE FROM RESIDENTIAL TO COMMERCIAL (GUEST HOUSE) AND DEVELOP THE SAME. ANY OBJECTIONS, CONTACT FRANCISTOWN COUNCIL PHYSICAL PLANNING OFFICE WITHIN 14 DAYS.

URGENTLY NEEDED STRUCTURAL FABRICATOR

The Structural Fabricator will be responsible for the following: Performing structural analysis from structural architectural drawings, Prepare construction plans details and structural notes. Perform site investigations and inspections. Coordinate directly with team members, architects, developers and contractors. Foster relations with clients and develop new work opportunities. Designing and building with wood, steel, concrete and reinforced masonry. Provide mentoring to both Fabricator Helpers and Fabricator Trainees.

Skills/ Qualifications/ Experience

Education: Diploma or technical certification in Civil Engineering or Construction, Completion of secondary education followed by 2 years of formal training in fabrication trades. Fair knowledge of spoken and written English language, Basic safety courses such as fire-fighting, survival, OHS and first aid. Minimum 8 to 10 years of practical experience in fabricating domes structures and structural steel work as well as brick building. Should be able to read and understand P&ID, GA drawings, Isometrics including preparing the isometrics drawings (hand sketch), prepare the Bill of materials from the drawings etc. Should be able to travel in and outside the country. Should have a valid driver's license.

PLANT OPERATOR concrete batch mixing

A concrete batch plant operator oversees the quality assurance unit of a ready-mix concrete factory. Their job duties include supervising the mixing process, testing batches and addressing any issues to ensure that concrete is made to specifications. They oversee the machinery used in the mixing of concrete and other materials for construction projects.

Should be able to: Operate and monitor the concrete batching plant to ensure accurate and efficient production. Control and adjust batching processes, including mixing ratios, raw material input, and output quality. Conduct routine maintenance and troubleshooting of plant machinery to prevent breakdowns. Ensure compliance with safety regulations and environmental policies. Keep accurate records of production, raw materials, and equipment maintenance. Coordinate with suppliers for timely delivery of raw materials. Maintain cleanliness and organization of the batching plant area. Work closely with quality control personnel to ensure product consistency.

Skills/ Qualifications/ Experience

Experience: Minimum of 2 years of experience in operating a concrete batch plant or similar machinery. Skills Strong understanding of concrete mix designs, batching processes, and quality control standards. Ability to operate and troubleshoot automated batching systems. Knowledge of safety protocols and plant maintenance procedures. Good communication and teamwork skills. Ability to work under pressure and meet production deadlines. Physical fitness to handle plant operations and occasional manual Interested candidates may apply in confidence to:

Email **ap_holdings@yahoo.com**
AP Holdings
P.O Box 1299 Gaborone, Botswana.
Closing Date: 28th April 2025

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ENTER INTO A TRANSACTION WITH A NON-CITIZEN IN TERMS OF SECTION 34 OF THE TRIBAL LAND ACT (2018)

This notice is issued in compliance with the Tribal Land Act (2018), Section 34 Subsection 1 (a to e) in respect of acquisition of the entire shareholding (1100 issued shares) in the company **SALA PROPRIETARY LIMITED**, which transaction shall have effect of passing control of the following tribal land to non-citizens:

THE SELLERS: GEORGE GUY HASKINS and KATIA DENISE A. DENOLF
THE PURCHASERS: GIDEON VAN ZYL BARNARD and ANJA CHRISTINE BARNARD;
CERTAIN: Piece of Land being Lot 16840 Maun;
SITUATE: at Disaneng in the Batawana Tribal Territory;
MEASURING: 3726 m² (Three Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty-Six Square Meters)
HELD UNDER: Memorandum of Agreement of Grant of Lease between Tawana Land Board and **SALA PROPRIETARY LIMITED**
FT TL 60/2012

CONSIDERATION OF SHARES: P4 500 000.00 (Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Pula only);

SUBJECT: to the terms and conditions of a deed of sale, the terms and conditions of which may be inspected at the offices of Adom & Botha Attorneys, Ground Floor, Medswana Building, Plot 61127, Block 8, Gaborone

BE PLEASED TO TAKE NOTICE THAT:

(a) Any Botswana citizen interested in entering into a similar transaction in respect of the above property shall be given priority notwithstanding the agreement reached by the above-named parties regarding the controlled transaction.

(b) should any person wish to object to the proposed transaction, notice of objection with reasons should be furnished to the undersigned within thirty (30) days from the date of publication hereto.

ADOM & BOTHA ATTORNEYS, GROUND FLOOR, MEDSWANA BUILDING, PLOT 61127, BLOCK 8, GABORONE, P. O. BOX 27, LOBATSE TEL: 3985256 / 73436412

VACANCIES

A REPUTABLE DIAMOND CUTTING AND POLISHING COMPANY IS RECRUITING EXPERIENCED (DIAMOND POLISHERS).

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY COPIES OF CERTIFIED CERTIFICATE(S), (ID)/ PASSPORT(S) FOR ANY EXPATS, REFERENCES AND CV.

ADDRESS TO.
SRK EXPORTS PROPRIETY LIMITED.
P.O. BOX 403320, GABORONE.
OR Email: hr.bw@srk.me

CLOSING DATE: 30 MAY 2025

SRK Exports Proprietary Limited

An SRK Affiliate

RO: BITC Factory Shells, Unit 5, Plot 61128-61130, Po Box - 403320, Block 8 Industrial, Gaborone, Botswana
+2673930005 | Tin No.: BW00003786741 | botswana@srk.me | @srk.one

RAMATEA VOCATIONAL SCHOOL T/A RAVOS TECHNICAL COLLEGE:

APRIL 2025 INTAKE IS ON: CALL 5403361/5441752 NO REGISTRATION FEE.

HURRY!!! SPACES AVAILABLE AND SUBSIDIZED ACCOMMODATION IS AVAILABLE

OUR COURSES: GOVERNMENT SPONSORSHIP AVAILABLE FOR DIPLOMA PROGRAMS. FREE REGISTRATION.

1. Certificate in Early Childhood Education(1 year)
2. Certificate in Early Childhood through Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) 6 months
3. Certificate in Occupational Health and Safety (1 year)
4. Certificate in Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning (1 year)
5. Diploma in Early Childhood Education (2-3 years)
6. Diploma in Occupational Health and Safety (2 years)

ENTRY REQUIREMENT: JC AND ABOVE

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 2. Dressmaking & Fashion Design (6 weeks)
 3. Small Stock Production (6 weeks)
 4. Solar Energy (Design, installation, and maintenance) – 6 weeks
- VISIT WWW.RAVOSCOLLEGE.CO.BW

HOW TO APPLY: Cell/WhatsApp 74132016 Or Visit us at Ga-Kgolo Ward, Kanye

Email: ravosotech@gmail.com or ravoscollege@gmail.com FaceBook @Ravos Technical College

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ask marketing office
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Botswana Government Communications
and Information Systems
BGCIS

NATIONAL SYMBOL

Protocol of the National Anthem

- a) All should stand to attention with their hands placed on their sides while signing the National Anthem. Members of the armed forces and veterans who are present, but not in uniform, may render their military salute.
- b) When the National Anthem is being sung, members of the public should take their hats off as a sign of respect.
- c) The National Anthem is sung where dignitaries such as members of the Cabinet, Members of Parliament and the Chief Justice are on official duty.
- d) It has to be sung where dignitaries like His Excellency the President, His Honour the Vice President, Chiefs, and Ministers are on official duty and the Chief Justice inspecting the BDF parade.
- e) It has to be sung where the National teams are to represent the country and they are in Botswana colors.
- f) The Botswana National Anthem is sung on all national activities that unite the nation as a symbol of patriotism and to mobilise the nation towards a common goal.
- g) It is important to note that, choirs assigned to lead the National Anthem at official events do not use vibratos because that distorts the National Anthem.
- h) Not to be used or recorded by musicians for entertainment neither nor on movies e.t.c by individuals and groups.
- i) It should not be translated to any other language without due consultation.



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Tuesday April 8, 2025 No. 066

Thomas turns dream into reality

By Benita Magopane

GABORONE - For Ruth Thomas, a simple audition flyer was all it took to ignite a dream she had always carried within her; the dream of becoming part of the Miss Botswana pageant.

Little did she know that this step will change her life forever as she won the prestigious coveted title of Miss Botswana on March 23, joining a long lineage of beauties that have held the title since 1956.

"I've always wanted to join Miss Botswana, but I was never really sure about when or how," said a poised Thomas in an interview. "Then when they released their audition flyer, I thought, 'I'm going to do it now.'"

For the 23-year-old Masungaborn queen, the journey did not begin at the Miss Botswana Top 30 selection.

Instead, it started with her studies in clothing and textiles at the Humana People to People institution under the Selebi Phikwe Economic Diversification Unit where she earned a certificate.

She later joined the Miss Top Model Botswana 2023 pageant and achieved notable milestones, including working as a beauty advisor at Clicks and Foschini stores.

"I'm very passionate about all things beauty," she said.

"I see myself venturing into the fashion industry in the future and making a mark in the beauty space," she added.

She envisions uplifting Botswana's traditional fashion by incorporating it into everyday wear, ensuring it remains a part of daily life rather than being reserved for special occasions.

Reflecting on the challenges she faced as a contestant, Thomas admitted that she had to learn quickly and adapt, drawing inspiration from the more experienced

competitors around her.

"Initially, I compared myself to some of the ladies because of their backgrounds, the privileges they were born into, because I come from a very humble home," she shared.

However, she added that when it came to her looks, she had learnt to embrace herself fully.

"I think self-acceptance is my greatest weapon. Nobody can look better than me because I am uniquely me. That mindset has been a game-changer in my life."

Thomas also spoke about her Beauty With A Purpose project, The Beauty Movement; an initiative aimed at teaching children the importance of acceptance and supporting women in prisons, rape survivors, and those permanently affected by accidents.

"The goal is to help them appreciate life and understand that they are special," she said.

"Each of us has our own unique fingerprints. Imagine how many billions of people exist in the world, yet there is only one you. That's the power of individuality."

Faith plays a central role in Thomas' life and she revealed that her belief in God had been a fundamental source of strength, enabling her to navigate situations beyond her control. "I am fully Christian, a firm believer, and I trust God completely. I can't imagine facing life without Him," she shared candidly.

She attributed her success to the unwavering support of her family, who had nurtured her faith and love.

"I've always been a child of prophecy. So much greatness has been spoken over my life since childhood, and my family embraced that because they knew what was coming," she said. **BOPA**



Magosi FC stretches impressive run

By Baleseng Batlotleng

RAMOTSWA - With six games remaining until the curtain falls, the battle for honours and survival gains exciting traction with every passing weekend in the Debswana First Division South league campaign.

Exciting Ramotswa-based outfit Magosi FC inched closer to run away log leaders Police XI after a convincing 2-1 victory away to City Polar FC in Tlokweng on Saturday.

Two strikes in each half from Patrick Kaunda and Thabang Mooketsi were enough to seal a resounding victory for Magosi and hand maximum points to gaffer Nelson Olebile against his former employers.

Magosi tied on 29 points with Jwaneng Young Strikers cemented their second spot position after last week's narrow 1-0 win in Tsabong.

Against Magosi, Polar were keen to grab all the points but proved indecisive in front of goal and thus punished by a lucky visiting side.

Magosi just like they did in Tsabong last week scored as early as the first minute and were content on sitting back and absorbing pressure the better half of the match.

Kaunda produced and excellent half volley to open the scoreline on the first whistle before Mooketsi put the game beyond reach on the 75th minute.

On the other hand, Young Stars FC punished Notwane and compounded their woes after a 2-1 away victory.

It was a second consecutive loss for MaCat as Notwane are fondly called by their loyal fan base following last week's 0-1 loss away to equally struggling Sand

Diamonds FC.

Prisons XI lifted off the relegation dogfight with a 2-1 victory against Taung Young Strikers who were looking to close the top four bracket.

Sand Diamonds were unable to repeat the feat as they fell 0-3 to on form Holy Ghost FC.

The Holy Boys have been on a good run since the start of the second round, winning all their opening five matches.

The first division south league battles began Friday with log leaders Police XI scalping visiting Desert Nxau 6-0 at the Otse Police College.

Relegation-bound, Desert Boys have a mammoth task as the league winds up with several trips away from home.

City Polar are seated mid table and showing determination to move into the top four bracket.

BOPA



Magosi Football Club players celebrating their first goal by Patrick Kaunda (second left) during a First Division South League game at Tlokweng VDC grounds recently. Magosi FC won 2-1. Photo: Gaseitsiwe Moruakgomo

‘Consistent winning may bag it for any contender’

By Manowe Motsaathebe

SELEBI-PHIKWE - A 2-1 win over NICO United stands Township Rollers in good stead amongst the ferocious contenders to clinch the 2024/25 FNB Premiership league title.

However, consistency in winning the remaining seven games will be key in determining the ultimate prize winner of the first FNBB-sponsored league, so holds the Rollers coach, Abdelaziz Karkache. In a post-match interview following the garnering of the invaluable three points against the home side NICO at Sam Sono Stadium, coach Karkache observed that despite Rollers' machine propelling hard and sufficiently to eventually

lift the golden trophy, every of the contenders should remain pumped-up for some exhilarating and rewarding performances.

“Yes, we want to win the championship, but it is not easy when you have three competitors sturdily vying for it,” coach Karkache said about the intentions of the 16-time Premier League champions while citing Gaborone United, TAFIC and Jwaneng Galaxy as top threats to Rollers' ambitions. However, the 60-year-old Moroccan, who joined Rollers December, said consistency in winning games will propel the eventual winners past the lane and onto the winners' stage.

Powered by their painful 2-0 loss to Sua Flamingoes at home, Popa-Popa as Rollers are

monikered, vowed to thoroughly stoke their title hopes with a win against Majombolo as NICO are nicknamed. Although Karkache spoke a mouthful about Majombolo's fighting spirit post a game that drew multitude of full-throated supporters, he, on the other hand, lauded the never-say-die mentality of his boys.

“We're not very much concerned with other teams' results, but too focused on our team and what we can achieve together,” he said. Coach, Mandla Mpofu, whose team is slowly descending into some turbulence, has vowed to keep Majombolo in the top flight football despite the lurking relegation spirits.

“You look at the hype created by our supporters here in Selebi-

Phikwe...the way they rally behind us and you should reward them with keeping this team in the Premier League come what may,” said Mpofu.

While lauding supporters for their unwavering, consistent and tireless support, Mpofu also dubbed his boys some fighters.

“I will take the positives out of this game as we prepare for the next game. We still have seven winnable games and the only thing we can do is re-group and work even harder,” added Mpofu.

Although having lost the points that could have escalated them away from close association with danger, Mpofu said they would not ‘cry over spilt milk’ but focus on re-engineering their survival plans. **BOPA**

Masalela qualifies for World Championships

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Botswana's runner, Tshepiso Masalela has qualified for the Tokyo 2025 World Championships in the 1 500m event

Masalela, clocked a time of 3.30.72 at the Cape Milers Club SA Grand Prix meeting on Friday, beating his Personal Best time of 3.35.26 he registered last month.

Oratile Nowe also smashed her 800m National Record, clocking 1.59.22 obliterating the 1:59.46 she set last month, while in 800m, Kethobogile Haingura dominated the field, as he came first with a time of 1:44.00, Tumo Nkape finished second with a Personal Best time of 1.44.60, while Letlhogonolo Mokgethi finished fourth with a PB of 1:45.89.

Meanwhile, South Africa coach,

Samuel Sepeng said he had seen some improvements in some athletes who were now under his tutelage.

He said his conversation with the athletes was to take inspiration from Glody Dube and Nijel Amos, adding that the country had a lot of talent in the middle distance runners, which needed to be nurtured.

He said Botswana's future in the middle distance runners looked bright, adding that he was confident that they would soon win a medal at major championships.

“The performance of Batswana athletes is the same performance happening in Europe, in America, anywhere you can go in the world, so they are in a performance of what was happening in the world,” he said.

Meanwhile, Collen Kebinatshipi clocked a time of 45.15 to finish

in position four at the Grand Slam Track event in Kingston Jamaica on Saturday.

Initially, Kebinatshipi finished in position five but was then moved to position four after Zandrion Barnes of Jamaica, who had finished in position four, was disqualified for lane infringement.

On Sunday morning, Kebinatshipi finished sixth with a time of 21.08 in the final one, which was won by Matthew Hudson-Smith of Great Britain with 20.77.

Meanwhile athletes were divided into six event groups for each Slam, with long sprints competing in the 200m and 400m and earning points on the two results.

In that regard, Kebinatshipi earned five points in 400 meters and three in 200 metres to make it eight points and he was ranked sixth. **BOPA**



Tshepiso Masalela



Malak Macheng has become the first local tennis player to have a corporate sponsor after signing a one year sponsorship agreement with Choppies Botswana. Choppies marketing and public relations executive, Kebonyemodisa Kebonyemodisa said they picked Malak based on her performance.

Malak scores sponsorship

By Anastacia Sibanda

GABORONE - Malak Macheng has signed a one-year sponsorship agreement with Choppies Botswana, making her the first local tennis player to achieve such a feat. Choppies Botswana marketing and public relations

executive, Kebonyemodisa Kebonyemodisa said in an interview that they decided to support an upcoming female player, Malak based on her records. The sponsorship includes air tickets to and from major competitions, tennis regalia and equipment as well as a

monthly allowance. “As one of the youngest female athletes, we feel she should focus on her performances on the tennis court without worrying about where she would get money to travel to the next competition,” he said. Although the sponsorship is only for a year, Kebonyemodisa

indicated that Choppies would be willing to re-new on a yearly basis depending on the outcome of the agreement. Meanwhile, Malak’s mother, Bonnie Macheng said the sponsorship came at the right time and would make a big difference since tennis equipment was expensive with

prices ranging between P3 000 and P5 000. She said it would also help Malak to stay focused on her play since all her needs would catered for by the sponsor. She said she would continue to encourage Malak to work hard and bring results and not disappoint the sponsor. **BOPA**